

IT WAS RELIGION

That Caused Trouble Between Beers and Wife.

According to a Contract Shown the Court.

CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANT

They Could Not Agree on Form of Worship.

Wakarusa Neighbors Testify for Beers.

Evidence showing that the Beers family lived in peace and as far as any of the neighbors knew, in happiness until Mrs. Beers left on October 9, last, was introduced by the defense in the hearing of the Rev. W. L. Beers, who is on trial charged with being responsible for the death of his wife. Several neighbors from Wakarusa were called to testify, who were personally acquainted with the preacher and his wife during their stay there.

According to Mrs. Eliza Hutton, postmistress at Wakarusa, who was intimately acquainted with the family, Beers and his wife seemed to be very friendly the night before she left. Mrs. Beers was at the postoffice with Charles, the little boy, the witness said, when Beers came in and asked where the boy was. Being told he was in an adjacent room he looked in and saw him.

"Come, Mama, we'd better go home," the witness said Beers said to his wife. Mrs. Beers made no answer, she said, but smiled at him. Later the witness said she suggested that Beers take Charles and go home, and promised to walk part way home with Mrs. Beers. At that he went.

The witness said she knew of Mrs. Beers taking a telephone call and that a telephone communication between Beers and his wife the Friday before her death wherein Beers told her he could not bring any more children to Kansas because he could not take care of them.

On cross-examination the witness said that on that same night, just before Mrs. Beers left, she had told the witness that she never expected to become much of a musician, but that it was her ambition to learn to play the hymns her husband liked to sing. The witness also told how Mrs. Beers would watch for letters from Ohio, from "our children," she called them, meaning her stepchildren, and was sadly disappointed sometimes when such letters did not come. She showed a great deal of affection for the older children, the witness said.

Dr. Atchison told of being called to the Beers home the morning after Mrs. Beers left, and that he found a bruise on the preacher's face, and found his wife's thumb and wrist had been sprained. The inference was that Mrs. Beers had assaulted her husband, and this the defense will try to prove. He said Mrs. Beers' only remark was, "He wouldn't let me have my baby."

Mrs. Atchison, the doctor's wife, said she wanted the minister and his little boy to live with them. She said in answer to a question Beers told her might get along without him, but she said she might need him, and if she did he would go to her.

Several other witnesses told of their acquaintance with the minister and his family, and of the good reputation they bore. They said they did not know, until about the time Mrs. Beers left, that she was a Catholic, and that they never had heard of any trouble in the family.

An interesting document in the case

is a contract, drawn March 14, 1908, between Beers and his wife, wherein she waives her dower rights to his property and permits him to take charge of their children. The contract is similar to the one Attorney Harry Black of Turin, Ohio, refused to draw because he said it would not stand in the courts.

The contract signed by W. L. Beers and his wife, Laura Beers, and was acknowledged before Calvin D. Spitzer, a notary public of Seneca county, O. The contract begins by reciting that Mrs. Beers is contemplating a trip to her home in Nebraska, and desires to worship regularly rather than occasionally in the Roman Catholic church, and that on account of Beers being a Methodist preacher it is impossible for her to attend her church regularly, and for the reason that the second party (Mrs. Beers) prefers her church more than her home and has stated to the first party (Beers) that she may not remain and live with him again as his wife.

"Therefore, be it known that the second party voluntarily releases all her claim by way of dower or otherwise in the property of Nebraska, and desires to worship regularly rather than occasionally in the Roman Catholic church, and that on account of Beers being a Methodist preacher it is impossible for her to attend her church regularly, and for the reason that the second party (Mrs. Beers) prefers her church more than her home and has stated to the first party (Beers) that she may not remain and live with him again as his wife.

"And in consideration of the first party taking, caring for and educating their son, Paul Beers," the contract continues, "and also of taking at the age of four years any child or children that may be born to second party within eight months from the date of this contract, caring for and educating such child or children, and relieving the first party from any responsibility whatever arising from the care, maintenance, support and education of any of their children, it is further agreed that the second party will not in any way interfere with the raising of said children by first party."

There follows a paragraph which declares the contract shall operate as a contract for immediate separation, and an agreement that the minister pay to his wife \$50 in cash, and \$25 in three and six months, and declaring the leaving of the wife was due only to her preference for her church. The contract also amplifies this statement as follows:

"And it is further understood by and between first and second parties that their trouble leading up to this separation has solely grown out of their differences in church belief and worship." There was no hearing in the Beers case today. The hearing will begin again Monday when additional testimony will be heard. It will be placed on the stand. Some time Monday or Tuesday, it has not been determined yet, the minister himself will take the stand to tell his side of the story of his troubles with his wife that led to her tragic death at the Glenwood hotel. It is hoped the case may be finished by the close of the week, and the jury Thursday morning.

APPEALS TO SULZER.

Sentenced to Die, New York Man Makes Statement to Governor

Ossining, N. Y., March 15.—John Mulvaney, appointed to die Monday in the electric chair for the murder of "Paddy the Priest," a New York saloon keeper, today sent a letter to Governor Sulzer in which he declared himself unrepentant and would go to his death the victim of the underworld's "code of honor," which condemned a "squalor" as the most contemptible thing on earth. He asks for a reprieve of sixty days in order to bring forward new evidence to prove his innocence.

He declared in the missive that, believing in the code of honor and thinking he could not be convicted because he was innocent, he had decided to consider "a brave act in trying to protect supposed friends by permitting this infamous charge to be lodged." The prisoner added that he was "freed up" by the New York police and that while intoxicated by whisky given him by the police he signed a confession which he supposed was merely a statement describing his movements the night of the murder.

FOUR MURDERS CHARGE

Horrible Crimes Are Laid at Door of Illinois Youth.

Quincy, Ill., March 15.—Next Tuesday morning Ray Pfanschmidt will be tried on trial in the circuit court at Adams county. Pfanschmidt is the youth, just twenty-one years old, who is accused of having killed his father, mother, sister and a young lady school teacher, a boisterous in his home, using some sharp instrument and then returning the next night and burning the house. The alleged murder took place September 27, 1912. Pfanschmidt will be tried for the murder of his sister, Blanche, as in her case, because of the condition of the body, the evidence of murder was strongest.

RICHARD WILSON

Candidate for City Commissioner Parks and Public Property

Residence 1637 Fillmore

As to my attitude or position in dealing with important questions in the City Administration, I desire to state that as a candidate for Commissioner of Parks and Public Property, that I believe in a unity of purpose on the part of city officers to make Topeka clean, prosperous and progressive; that in the expending of public money, the strictest economy and best business policy should be practiced; that our splendid school system should produce the highest type of intellectual and moral citizenship; that our youth should be surrounded with the most wholesome environment; and that our Public Parks and property should contribute to the health and happiness of our entire citizenship.

I stand for the enforcement of all laws and ordinances, and would heartily support every movement for the betterment of our city. I believe that our city officials should carefully consider the best interests of the laboring classes in the administration of all city affairs and that they should lead us into a greater field of commercial activities.

If given your support in the coming spring election, I will be guided by these principles in giving to Topeka, the city which I hope to serve, my best service in making her the healthiest and best place in which to live.

(Advertisement.)

TO REMAIN ALOOF

Progressives Urged to Keep Clear of Other Alliances.

Beveridge and Roosevelt Principal Speakers at Banquet.

Philadelphia, March 15.—Congressmen elected on the Progressive ticket were told they are expected to remain apart from the other parties by former President Roosevelt at the banquet here last night under the auspices of the Pennsylvania state Progressive conference.

The next national Progressive convention in 1916 was referred to by Col. Roosevelt and former Senator Albert J. Beveridge, the colonel declaring that the greatest number of delegates from any state in the next national convention will be from Pennsylvania, while Senator Beveridge urged his hearers to not only act as missionaries but as organizers and added that "if you do for your party as missionaries, the Progressive party will be the next president of the United States."

Colonel Roosevelt, in speaking of Congressman-elect Clyde Kelly, told him that not only Pennsylvania but the whole nation was interested in him.

"We expect you to make a separate party and a party by yourself. We want you and the other Progressives to stand up as Progressives and show the world that you are not afraid of putting your necks under the yoke of privilege."

Former Senator Beveridge declared that the Progressives are organizing all over the country as they are here. "The same thing," he said, "occurred after the first defeat of the Republican party. Thirty years is the average life of a political party in this country, and both the old parties were disintegrating because each was composed of members of widely differing views."

The fundamental principle of the new party, he declared, is nationality as opposed to locality—the supremacy of the nation as opposed to the support of the state.

POST IS REFUSED.

(Continued from Page One.)

the progressive Republican senator in high regard. He watched his career for many years as governor of Wisconsin and as United States senator. He referred to Mr. LaFollette in terms of a "great leader" during his campaign for the presidency.

"Most all of our now immense public improvements, such as paving, electric lights, brick sidewalks, etc., were worked out and started under the administration of Mr. LaFollette, a true progressive, upon tariff revision, currency legislation, Alaska, and other matters of physical valuation of railroads, as provided for by congress in the closing days of the last session."

Will Meet Again. The conference last night was merely preliminary to others to be held later as the situation in congress develops. Other progressive senators will be asked to the White House from time to time and the president hopes that many of them will be in the city to meet up with the Democrats in passing what he believes is progressive legislation.

The discussion between the president and Senator LaFollette was not intended to lead to a final closing of opinions in regard to subjects that congress will be called on to consider. It was a meeting arranged for the taking of briefly of several broad subjects which would lead to more minute consideration in the near future.

Common ground on which both could stand on many issues was indicated by the president's desire to have a discussion at all with Mr. LaFollette. Senator LaFollette was closeted with the president from 6 o'clock until 7 o'clock. Apparently he was in good humor when he departed, for although he would not talk about his visit, he joked with the newspapermen who were waiting to see him.

"Well, how do you feel now?" he was asked. "I never felt better than I do now. I have been in most excellent health for two years."

Considering Appointments. Four prominent Democrats are under consideration by President Wilson for important offices. Joseph E. Dill, of Wisconsin, secretary of the Democratic national committee, has been offered the assistant secretaryship of war, and if he declines may return to his post as Foster Peabody, of New York, former treasurer of the Democratic national committee, is desired for the collectorship of the port of New York. With Secretary McAdams of the treasury department, Mr. Peabody saw the president.

Dudley Field Malone, of New York, who for the last two years has campaigned in several states for Mr. Wilson, has been offered the position of assistant to the attorney general in charge of cases before the supreme court in New York. Mr. Malone is being urged for an assistant secretaryship of state.

Veto Message Transmitted. Havana, March 14.—The message of President Gomez, vetoing the amnesty bill, was read in both houses of congress yesterday. The message did not contain the slightest reference to the recent frequent energetic remonstrances from Washington concerning the bill. It merely stated that President Gomez had not been able to study of the measure, saw inconsistencies in various chapters which possibly would lead to legal controversies.

Houston Reception Planned. St. Louis, March 15.—A "snake dance" will be given for the possible amusement of Secretary of Agriculture Houston, when he returns this afternoon to Washington university, of which he was chancellor up to the time of his recent cabinet appointment. The dance will be given by the freshmen, but its exact nature has not been divulged. Tree-planting, bomb shooting, speech-making and the presentation of a loving cup are other welcoming features arranged by the students for their former chancellor.

Notice. All members of Topeka Council No. 2 K. of L. S. are urged to attend council meeting next Wednesday evening at 8 p. m. Refreshments will be served.

Loans on city property solicited by the Prudential Trust Co.—Adv.

IN CITY POLITICS.

(Continued from Page One.)

Mrs. Lila Day Monroe, president of the club, before she left for Excelsior Springs today, stated that several of the women had agreed on five candidates for the city hall positions and the agreement was popular with many of the members and that the favored candidates undoubtedly would receive personal endorsements.

"We are not going to support a regular ticket, however," Mrs. Monroe explained. "Our membership is too independent to plan for the next campaign. We will give perfect freedom to work for them."

The reported favored ticket follows: Mayor—J. W. F. Hughes. Commissioner of streets—George Adamson.

Commissioner of parks—William R. Porter.

Commissioner of water and light—F. L. Newland.

Commissioner of finance, revenue—Roy L. Bone.

Not a woman candidate has been nominated as a favorite of the Good Government party.

"When we asked for the ballot we did not ask for office," said Mrs. Monroe in answer to this inquiry. "All we wanted was a chance to vote for laws that would benefit the city. We are not so narrow as to desire the offices ourselves—if we recognize ability in a man to handle the affairs of the city, we want to support him. We want that even if he is a school teacher or a school principal, who will watch over the homes, the schools and the children—these are our interests."

Former Senator Sells Marshall who will act as leader of the organization in the absence of Mrs. Monroe, stated this afternoon that the club had indicated no office for office and would support no city official, and she stated that the "picked list" of candidates was without authority or sanction.

Cofran Opens Headquarters. The first real sign of the city campaign was announced today when L. Cofran, candidate for mayor, opened uptown headquarters in the New England building, Rooms 214 and 215 have been engaged for the week's final voting campaign and an office force will be engaged to distribute literature, answer inquiries and handle the campaign of the candidate.

Many bills were signed today by Governor Hodges and were reported to the legislature at 3 o'clock this afternoon. Among the measures signed were some of the important pieces of legislation enacted at this session.

Joe J. Hodges for the signing of bills passed by the 1913 legislature ends at noon Monday. At that hour the legislature adjourns sine die and final action on all of the 343 bills passed at this session must be taken before the legislature adjourns for the year.

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The Bull Moose banquet in Topeka last month bore eloquent testimony to the strength of the party. The Kansas Day banquet gave evidence direct that the regulars were as strong in the faith after the disaster of November as they were before. Therefore, if the split in the party is to come, it will come in two of a solid body and years of defeat before one of the pieces shall be strong enough to prevail. If common ground between the extremes of the two factions could be reached, that would be admirable party ground upon which to rest. A compromise candidate for governor would go a long way towards leading the G. O. P. of Kansas to this desired ground where it could make a real fight against Democracy.

As the Democrats, successful in November, and pleased with their success in the legislative enactment of campaign promises into law, they have adopted the plan for the next campaign. They will distribute a legislative handbook of accomplishments among the voters. As for candidates, they will have a plenty for all offices. Hodges is not apt to have opposition for the gubernatorial nomination but the race for United States senator will be the work of state politics.

State Senator Balle Waggoner of Atchison, leader of the last senate, will run. So will Speaker Brown of Kansas and James Orr of Atchison, and Hugh Farrelley of Chanute, and possibly Senator Carney of Cloud county. With four candidates from the eastern part of the state, Brown would seem to be a formidable candidate for the nomination.

For the senatorial opposition to the Democrats, Senator Balle Waggoner will run for re-nomination, but from previous appearances as a radical Progressive, Senator Curtis may also enter the race. In that event, the Democrats will be an out and out regular Republican. A harmony candidate does not now appear on the horizon. The Progressive party, in the person of a candidate against Anthony for congressional nomination in the First district, Keene of Bourbon, another Progressive, is talked of as a congressional candidate in the Second district.

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SIGNED MANY BILLS.

Hodges Is Working Overtime on Important Measures.

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STOCK SHIPPERS

To Insure Yourself Best Results Consign to

CLAY, ROBINSON & CO.

Live Stock Commission Merchants, Stock Yards, Kan. City

We Also Have Our Own Office at Chicago, St. Joseph, St. Omaha, St. Louis, St. Paul, St. Pierre, St. Vrain, St. W. Buffalo, St. W. St. Louis and Fort Worth.

TODAY'S MARKET REPORT.

Chicago, March 15.—WHEAT—Stop loss selling of wheat today caused prices to decline from the start. Lower cables and the bearish domestic crop outlook were the chief influence against the bulls. The opening was a shade to the west and the southwest trend also depressed the market. The opening was a shade to the west and the southwest trend also depressed the market. The opening was a shade to the west and the southwest trend also depressed the market.

CATTLE—Receipts 200. Market steady. Beef, \$2.50; calves, \$2.50; steers, \$2.50; stockers and feeders, \$2.50; cows and heifers, \$2.50; mixed, \$2.50; heavy, \$2.50; light, \$2.50; rough, \$2.50; pigs, \$2.50.

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